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1904

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
State Board of Charities
and Reform

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDING NOV. 30, 1904

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**Office of
State Board of Charities and Reform.**

Helena, Montana, November 30, 1904.

To His Excellency,

J. K. TOOLE,

Governor of Montana.

Sir: In compliance with the requirement of the law governing the "State Board of Charities and Reform," Article XXI of the Political Code, Section 748, we herewith present the report of the year ending November 30th, 1904.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. GROENEVELD,

President.

D. B. PRICE, Secretary.

Members of the Board.

E. J. Groeneveld,Butte
W. W. Van Orsdel,Great Falls
D. B. PriceStevensville

Office of the Board.

State Capitol.

Standing Committees of the Board.

State Insane AsylumE. J. Groeneveld
Soldiers' HomeW. W. Van Orsdel
Home for OrphansW. W. Van Orsdel
State Reform SchoolD. B. Price
Deaf and Blind SchoolE. J. Groeneveld
PenitentiaryD. B. Price

ANNUAL REPORT.

To His Excellency,
J. K. TOOLE, Governor,
and

To the Senate and Assembly of the State of Montana:

We have the honor to submit herewith a report of the transactions of the State Board of Charities and Reform, since December 1st, 1903.

The Statute requires that the Board shall, every year, make a report of the actual condition of all the State, County and City Institutions, which by Statute come under its supervision, with such suggestions, as they may deem advisable; also a statement of all expenses incurred. Accordingly, we have the honor to submit the Annual Report. For the year 1903, we transmit only the report of the Board's special examination into the management and work of the Insane Asylum of the State at Warm Springs, Montana, which examination by special direction of the Governor, was undertaken by the entire Board, and was exceedingly thorough and complete. Respectfully submitted,

E. J. GROENEVELD,
President.

THE STATE INSTITUTIONS.

Charitable and Correctional.

The number of State Institutions, subject to the supervision of this Board, is now the same as last year, viz: The State Prison, at Deer Lodge; The State Reform School, at Miles City; The Home for Orphans, Foundlings and Destitute Children, at Twin Bridges; The Soldiers' Home, at Columbia Falls; The State School for Deaf and Blind, at Boulder, and the State Insane Asylum, at Warm Springs. It is also made the duty of the Board to conduct a course of investigation into the condition of poor houses in the State, as well as Jails, City Prisons and houses of correction, but because of the limited amount of money placed at the disposal of this Board for actual expenses incurred in the pur-

suit of its work, this latter investigation has not been undertaken at all until this year, when the Board visited these institutions in the Counties of Silver Bow, Cascade, and Lewis and Clarke. The reports, severally, follow:

The State Prison at Deer Lodge.

This institution was visited November 5th, 1904.

The inspection was thorough. The number of inmates received from October 1st, 1903, to October 1st, 1904, was 194; discharged during same time, 193.

The total number of prisoners at the time of our visit was 439, seven of whom were women. Not one had any complaint to make and many expressed satisfaction with the regulations of the prison.

This institution is well ventilated, clean and the supply of clothing is ample and of good quality. The food is of good quality, well prepared and neatly served.

The contractors supply a weekly religious service, at their own expense, for the prisoners, but further than this there is no specific efforts at the reformation of the inmates.

A penal system, to be effective, must be corrective and to be corrective must be essentially disciplinary and educational. It is folly for any state to adopt a system which propagates crime, instead of eradicating it. Many of the offenders of this State are capable of redemption, and to them the State owes, for its own sake and for theirs, the application of every influence, physical, intellectual, moral and religious, which can bring about reformation. Every incentive to hope, endeavor, and ambition and ultimate reward should be brought to bear upon the delinquent. The entire reorganization of his life is involved.

This Board would respectfully make the following suggestions:

1. We recommend the grading system of dress, similar to the one in use in similar institutions in some of the Eastern states, and which has proved to be a wholesome means of discipline.
2. We recommend the establishment of a school of such a character as will enable every prisoner, sent back into the world, to enter the struggle for existence with a fair chance of success. This school would virtually remove the necessity for an employment bureau for discharged prisoners.
3. We recommend that some provision be made for the services of a chaplain to the Penitentiary. If the Constitution pro-

hibits the Legislature from appropriating any of the State's money for moral or religious instruction, then the State should invite the co-operation of the religious organizations of the State, in providing for the support of a Chaplain, and thereby procure, for the prisoners, the religious instruction they so much need and are entitled to.

Finally, we would suggest that an indispensable element in the reformation of offenders is the indeterminate sentence. Definite terms of imprisonment are mechanical. Whenever a prisoner's record shows that it is safe to release him, he should be released. The indeterminate sentence gives hope and aspiration.

The Reform School at Miles City.

The management of this institution is highly endorsed and much appreciated by the community.

A thorough inspection disclosed that the buildings are kept clean and are well lighted and heated.

The sleeping apartments are too much crowded and there should be provision made for the separation of the smaller children and the less incorrigible, from the larger and more vicious class.

There is a great need of more toilets, wash basins, and bath tubs, and some repairs on the buildings.

The farm has been successfully cultivated this year by the boys and plenty of vegetables have been put in the cellar for the winter.

There should be manual training and industrial departments installed in this school. It does not seem right for the State to send out this class of boys or girls without a theoretical and practical knowledge of some useful trade, and therefore we recommend an appropriation by the Legislature for this purpose.

There are a few boys in this school who should have been sent to the Orphans' Home, and we suggest that greater caution be exercised in this matter.

The Orphans' Home at Twin Bridges.

The family atmosphere in this institution impresses the observant visitor most favorably. The Superintendent and his wife are intelligently and ardently devoted to the children.

The administration building is quite defective in construction and arrangement, and symmetry, harmony and adaptability have

been totally neglected in the style and position of the buildings.

A building for the heating plant is needed; also a cottage dormitory.

This institution has no manual training department, which is to be deplored. If no other institutions in the State are to be provided with manual training schools, this Home and the Reform School surely should; therefore, we must heartily make such recommendation.

Constant consideration should be given by the local Board to the merit of the teaching force employed in this Home. The great State of Montana cannot afford to do less than the best for these wards.

Finally, we call attention to the demand for the maintenance of a thoroughly equipped and efficiently supervised kindergarten department.

Soldiers' Home at Columbia Falls.

This institution was visited August 20th, 1904.

Captain H. S. Howell, commandant, is a very friendly and courteous gentleman. From the fact that he had experience as a soldier during the Civil War, and has led an active business life since, he seems to be just the right man for this important position.

The Local Board of Managers are: Martin Maginnis, President; C. B. Miller, Secretary; J. L. Sloane, A. Ingraham and J. S. Wisner, Members. These gentlemen have looked after the interests here in a business-like way.

We found that there were 57 inmates. Twenty-two were out on parole. There were nine in the Hospital. During the past year there were nine deaths.

A very convenient building, two stories and basement, 51½ feet by 36 feet in size, has been erected. The contract price for this building was \$5,250.00. This building is for the wives of soldiers, and the men who have families, when admitted to the Home. It is thought these accommodations will be very much needed, though, as yet, no applications have been made for admission.

An addition has been built to the Hospital and the basement has been excavated and otherwise valuable improvements have been made.

We found the crop very good for an exceedingly dry season. The garden is in splendid condition with plenty of vegetables.

The men were in good spirits, considering their age and many infirmities of the flesh.

Everything was clean and the entire institution presented a very home-like appearance.

We feel that provision should be made to give the Home the services of a Chaplain.

The nation owes these brave men a great debt, which the State is now seeking to pay, in giving them all the care and comforts that it is possible to do.

The Insane Asylum at Warm Springs.

This institution was visited by the Board and most thoroughly inspected in all its details. Again the Board was impressed with the fact that the situation of the Hospital for healthfulness, cleanliness and quietness of environment, specially suited to the inmates, could most probably, not be duplicated in any part of the State.

The inspection included every room and ward and the healthfulness of their daily surroundings and the general appearance of the patients were carefully noted. Our visit to the institution was entirely unannounced, but we found that the attention and care given to these unfortunates of society are unremitting, as well as ample, and the general oversight and medical service, careful and thorough. In March last, the contractors, through the Superintendent of the Asylum, assured the State Commissioners for the Insane, that in accordance with a recommendation of this Board, made October 10th, 1903, steps would be taken at once toward the erection of a substantial building to be used by the female patients of the asylum, exclusively. Before this promise could be carried out, however, a disastrous fire at the Asylum, which in June of this year destroyed the magnificent Hospital, which was used exclusively for the men, made a postponement of these plans necessary. This was a real misfortune, as the women's building is an imperative necessity. The Hospital for the men has been rebuilt, and this Board is pleased to state, that much preliminary work for the construction of the women's building has already been done, and we have the assurance of the Superintendent, that next spring and summer will see the consummation of this plan, long cherished, which will give an opportunity and provide facilities for the treatment and care of the female inmates, equal to that given in any similar institution in our land. As soon as the management of the institution has

fully recovered from the results of the fire of last June, and the consequent crowding of the inmates somewhat, and considerable reduction of facilities for caring for the sick and helpless, this Board will once more emphasize the recommendations made in a former report, and found upon pages 9 and 10 of a special report, appended to this annual statement, viz: That the management provide amusements for the patients, including books, papers, games and music; that the patients be more systematically and carefully grouped, especially those in the female wards; and that better hospital facilities be provided for the female patients. At the close of next year, when the contemplated building operations have been finished, we confidently expect the management of the Asylum to give solicitous attention to these important matters, recommended by this Board.

The School for the Deaf and Blind at Boulder.

Mr. Thomas S. McAloney is the efficient Superintendent of this institution. The attendance of this school is constantly increasing, though there are still a great many boys and girls in the State who should be brought here to enjoy the many real facilities for the education and training of the Deaf and Blind, which are here provided by the State. The equipment of this institution, in many respects, is quite superior, and it is a real injustice not to have all the Deaf and Blind among the youth of our State profit by them. The men and women who compose the teaching and training force of the school have been specially fitted for their work, and some, in addition to their personal fitness, have had years of experience in some of the well-established institutions of this kind in other states.

The institution, in all its numerous details, was thoroughly inspected. The methods of instruction are those used in the best schools of this kind. A gratifying advance has been made in the results achieved since the last year's visit by this Board. The recommendation, which we made two years ago in behalf of the construction of a separate building for the feeble minded of school age, many of whom are now confined at the Insane Asylum, was endorsed by the last legislature. The building has been erected, and is waiting for its equipment.

Silver Bow County.

Two members of the Board made a very thorough inspection of the Poor Farm, the County and City Jails.

The Poor Farm is furnished with a main building, and a num-

ber of minor buildings. The main building is substantial, well constructed, and reasonably well appointed. The other buildings are somewhat inferior, constructed of wood, and should be replaced with brick as soon as possible. Some of the windows in the main building should be provided with iron bars. Only a few weeks before our visit, one of the inmates was killed by jumping from a second story window.

The number of admissions to the Farm from October 1st, 1903, to October 1st, 1904, was 245; discharged during the same time, 195; and there were, during the year, 32 deaths.

The Superintendent, Mr. Luke Williams, seems to be in favor with the inmates, and quite efficient in his management of the Farm.

The cost to the County is fifty-four cents per day for each inmate. The food is of a good quality, well prepared and served in sufficient quantity.

The County Jail—Silver Bow County.

This institution is not very clean and is small and ill appointed. The food supply is ample and of good quality.

There is no provision in this institution for the separation of youthful offenders from the older and more hardened criminals, nor is there a separate place for the detention of witnesses.

So much depends upon the care and treatment of offenders upon their first arrest and confinement, that we suggest that the Board of County Commissioners give this institution more constant and thorough supervision.

Though we asked for the number of commitments and discharges during the year, and waited as long as we could for the information, we did not get it, but learned that the cost per day to the County for the board of prisoners is fifty (50c) cents.

The City Jail—Butte.

The handling and care of offenders in a city like Butte is no small task, and yet that is the reason that it should be efficiently done.

The Jail is comfortable and the sexes are properly separated.

The prisoners are fed twice a day at a cost of twenty cents per meal to the city. The Southern Hotel has the contract. The contract is so general in its provisions that the Board thought it would be very difficult to tell when its terms were being complied with. We saw the prisoners eat and confess to disappointment. The quality of the food was inferior and it was served in

a most discreditable manner. It did not seem to us that there was enough in quantity, nor was the quality satisfactory.

We recommend that the City Council give this matter its attention.

The total number of arrests made from December to September, inclusive, was 2,106, of whom 373 were women.

The Board, after conferring with the City Marshal and Jailer regarding youthful offenders, was convinced that Butte City is greatly in need of parks and playgrounds for the children, especially a place for the boys to play ball.

Cascade County.

The County Farm is furnished with a main building, 40x50 feet, constructed of brick, with some small buildings for contagious diseases, a comfortable barn and other out buildings.

Eighteen men and two women were at the Farm October 1st, 1904. The cost to the County of each is \$3.60 per week.

About one hundred persons, including children, are supported by the County outside the Farm. The amount distributed to them is about \$1,000 per month. This includes all the outside poor in the County. The steward states to this Board, that the use of intoxicating liquor and gambling brought more persons to the farm than any other cause.

The sanitary conditions of the City Jail are good. There are two departments, entirely separate, one for men and one for women. It is the judgement of the Chief of Police that the County should provide a home for children under sixteen years of age, until permanent homes are found for them, instead of putting them in prison. After considering this subject carefully, and as a result of a close study of this matter the Board is convinced, and therefore recommends, that under no circumstances should juvenile offenders, under 12 years of age, be put in the County Jail, even temporarily.

During the year a member of the Board visited the County Jails of Chouteau, Teton, Valley and Fergus Counties. These institutions were all well kept and wisely managed.

The County Jail of Cascade County is a two story brick and stone building, with good sanitary arrangements. The cooking for the inmates is done in the building, and the Jailer and Keeper reside there.

The cost to the County for each prisoner is fifty (50c) cents per day.

Witnesses detained in the jail are separated from the criminals, and juvenile offenders are usually placed in the witnesses' room. Male and female prisoners are completely separated. In answer to the question, should a police matron be employed to look after the female prisoners and the juvenile offenders, the Sheriff states that it would probably be better, but not absolutely necessary.

Lewis and Clarke County.

The sanitary conditions at the County Jail are excellent, the building being supplied with tripstools, bath tubs, hot and cold water, and all are kept clean and serviceable.

The cost of board is fifty (50c) cents per day. Good meals are served twice a day.

The male and female prisoners are entirely separated, as they are located on different floors. A matron would do much good, and one ought to be employed. There is, in this Jail, no separate place for youthful criminals, nor is there any adequate accommodation for witnesses temporarily detained by the prison authorities.

There is an attempt made at reform work among the prisoners by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Salvation Army, but they only hold regular services on Sunday.

A padded cell for the insane, temporarily confined here, is greatly needed. There should be a separate place of detention for young girls, who are fit subjects for the reform school, and they should not be allowed to associate, even temporarily, with the female criminals.

The City Jail and County Farm were also visited and found to be in excellent condition, due to efficient management.

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. GROENEVELD,
President.
D. B. PRICE, Secretary.

Office of
State Board of Charities and Reform.

Helena, Montana, October 10, 1903.

To His Excellency,

J. K. TOOLE,

Governor of Montana.

Sir: We have the honor to transmit herewith the report of the Board's examination into the management and work of the Insane Asylum of the State of Montana, at Warm Springs, Montana. Respectfully submitted,

E. J. GROENEVELD,

President.

Members of the Board.

E. J. GroeneveldButte
Walter M. JordanHelena
W. W. Van OrsdelGreat Falls

Office of the Board.

State Capitol.

Walter M. JordanSecretary

Standing Committees of the Board.

State Insane AsylumE. J. Groeneveld
Soldiers' HomeW. W. Van Orsdel
Home for OrphansW. W. Van Orsdel
Deaf and Blind School.....E. J. Groeneveld
State Reform School.....W. M. Jordan
PenitentiaryW. M. Jordan

Special Report.

The State Board of Charities and Reform of the State of Montana at the request of the Governor, J. K. Toole, met at the Insane Asylum, Warm Springs, August 25, for the purpose of investigating certain serious charges that had been made against the management of the institution by one James Gordon, of Helena, which charges had been made public in the press of the State. Other criticisms having been made in different parts of the State, in accordance with the wish of the Governor, and by his direction, the members of the Board took the matter up and gave it a thorough investigation. All the members of the Board were present, and two days were spent in the work. The letter containing the charges of Mr. James Gordon was put into the hands of the Board, besides other letters, as well as editorials and clippings from the newspapers.

The charges were in substance, cruelty and inhuman treatment of the patients on the part of the attendants, unwarranted abuse and restraint, poor food and inadequate clothing and bedding, and general incompetency of management. The charges of cruelty were specific, giving names of patients and dates in most instances, and the Board decided to look into each case carefully and definitely, as follows:

1. "The case of one McCauley, said to have been scalded to death in the plunge, literally cooked alive, in the fall of 1902." The Board found, that Mr. McCauley died of apoplexy in a room adjoining the plunge, and that the water is never hot enough to do the least injury to any patient.

2. "The case of John Galena, who was out on parole for two months last summer, and is said to have been offered his liberty permanently on payment of \$1,000." Mr. Galena was paroled and returned to his own friends, and to the Board, Mr. Galena positively denied the truth of this charge.

3. "The case of Peter Baer from Fridley, who, together with one Washburne, was kicked and beaten by the guards until they had to be sent to the hospital." Peter Baer denies, that he was ever ill-treated in the slightest degree and says that he is well cared for. Mr. Washburne's dementia was so complete that he could not understand the questions of the Board or reply thereto.

4. The case of "C. C. H. Smith, from Tom Miner basin, and

formerly a prominent business man of St. Paul—said to have been beaten and kicked by attendants until he had to be sent to the hospital, where he died shortly afterwards.” The Board, after investigation, believes, that this charge is not true, and that Mr. Smith died a natural death induced by hemorrhage of the brain.

5. The case of one “Peterson, a convict from Deer Lodge, choked and thrown into a dark cell for praying in the dining room; afterwards kicked and beaten by the guards until he, too, had to be sent to the hospital, where he died in less than a week.” The Board, after listening to the testimony, concluded, that Mr. Peterson died of exhaustion of mania, and not as charged.

6. The case of one “Randolph Roe at the hospital, evidently a well developed case of leprosy.” Competent physicians, not connected with the Asylum staff, assure the Board that this is a well developed case of psoriasis.

7. The case of “Thomas Duehme, ex-policeman from Butte, who had his scalp split open with a pair of steel hand-cuffs on the night he arrived, and whose body today, if he is alive, is one mass of bruises from head to foot.” The Board examined Mr. Duehme carefully, elicited all the information it could from him and other patients, and believe the charge **unfounded**.

8. In the matter of the two Chinamen mentioned, the Board found, that the physician of the institution removed the diseased eye of one to save the other eye, and both men testified that they are well cared for.

In the process of this investigation, the members of the Board had but one object in view, viz: To get the facts in each case as fully as possible. The methods of the institution were looked into, the physicians, attendants, nurses, and a score or more of the patients, especially the most intelligent among the latter, were examined, until all the information that we could possibly get in this matter was at our disposal. The patients were seen without the presence of any official of the institution, and nearly all seemed to speak without reserve.

As the charges against the management were given wide circulation throughout the State, and may have created considerable uneasiness among the friends and relatives of the patients, the Board, every member of which has frequently and for years visited this institution and taken a personal interest in the wel-

fare of the inmates and their treatment, would take the liberty to say:

1. The situation of the Asylum at Warm Springs is most delightful and for healthfulness, cleanliness and quietness it would be difficult to find as admirably fitted a location in the State.

2. The treatment of the patients the Board believes to be kind, competent and effective, which is seen especially in the large number of discharges of inmates cured or improved. The Board's conviction in this is based on the statistics, giving the number received and dismissed, as well as the testimony of the patients themselves, and on what we have seen upon repeated visits and many thorough examinations.

3. The use of the waters of the Warm Springs is highly prized by the management and patients. Without frequent bathing health cannot be maintained or insanity successfully treated.

4. There are thirty-two attendants in all. Several of the nurses have had considerable experience and training in the large institutions for the insane in the East, and to the Board they did not appear like people who would administer inhuman treatment to the unfortunate ones under their charge. The physicians, we learned, were intimately familiar with the condition of each patient.

5. Cleanliness is one of the hobbies of the management. The Board found no evidence of the presence of vermin or filth.

6. The food is of good quality, furnished in sufficient quantity, palatable and nutritious.

7. The rooms and wards were visited and found to be in good condition, well ventilated, and the bed clothing and beds were all that could be desired. There was not a trace of neglect in this regard. Fresh air and sunshine abound everywhere.

8. It is only in extreme cases that mechanical restraint is administered. Such instances are very rare. The days the Board was there, not a patient was under any personal mechanical restraint whatever.

9. As a result of closely observing the relations existing between the attendants and the patients, the Board believes, that they are pleasant and satisfactory.

10. The hospital, accessible to the male patients and used exclusively by them, is one of the best in the country, with all the facilities of a first class infirmary. The most approved ap-

pliances of modern research are made useful for the relief of the sick.

The Board finds that the contract between the State and the firm of Mitchell & Mussigbrod, contractors, is in substance as follows: In consideration of 65 cents per day per capita paid to the contractors by the State for the keeping and caring for, maintaining and treating all persons adjudged insane, they covenant to keep them, furnish them proper food and clothing, medical treatment and attendance, proper and suitable nurses and medicine, and in the case of the death of any such person or persons, the expenses of burial. They are required to provide and keep a secure and suitable building or buildings, with the proper wards and apartments, for the safe keeping and care and proper treatment of such insane persons. It is also provided that no contractor or employe shall treat any insane person, committed to his or her custody for treatment, with unwarranted severity, harshness or cruelty, or shall in any way abuse, or punish such person.

As a result of our investigations, painstakingly made, and based upon legitimate inferences drawn from what we saw and heard, as well as from the testimony of many of the patients, who were willing to enlighten us, our conclusions are as follows:

1. We endorse the management of the Asylum in so far as it has discouraged the indiscriminate visiting of the general public, for we believe it to be productive of harm to the inmates. Many of the patients are very sensitive to the humiliation of being regarded as objects of curiosity. We may state that the institution is always open to the State Board of Insane Commissioners, as well as the members of this Board, to the medical profession, and to the relatives and friends of patients. We think the unrestricted admission of sight seers would be ill advised and harmful.

2. We endorse the management in its effort to provide labor for the insane, occupying their minds and hands, which is beneficial to both body and mind. We found that about forty men and ten women work a part of their time. All manual labor is voluntary. In many cases it will develop and strengthen the weakened intellect and arouse a dormant ambition and stop a

tendency in all insane to degenerate and lose the ability to take care of themselves.

3. In the judgment of this Board the medical attention furnished the patients is adequate and effective. Dr. O. Y. Warren, the Superintendent, is regarded by the medical fraternity as one of the most successful alienists in the Northwest. He is ably assisted by two other regular physicians. As an evidence of this a comparison of results with those of admittedly well conducted Eastern institutions is invited. Nearly one-half of those admitted to the institution during the last fiscal year were dismissed as recovered within the year, viz: 42 per cent. The per cent of deaths during the fiscal year was 6.3. One death was due to pneumonia, one to peritonitis and one of acute nephritis. All other deaths were due to chronic wasting diseases. No contagion of any kind entered the Asylum during the past year.

4. We regard the contract price—\$4.55 per week for each patient—as reasonably moderate. In many of the Eastern institutions where the entire plant is owned by the State, and repairs are made by the State, the expenses are \$3.50 per week per patient, or more. The State should not be parsimonious in providing for the care of these unfortunates, whose reason is dethroned.

WE RECOMMEND:

1. That the State Board of Commissioners for the Insane ascertain whether it is not possible to provide amusements, including books, papers, games, music, systematically for the benefit of the patients. According to the best authorities, we find that amusements and employments should be provided for all capable of receiving benefit from them, and that these are undoubtedly "next to and supplementary to good food, cheerful quarters and kind treatment."

WE RECOMMEND:

2. A more systematic and careful grouping of the patients, those in the female wards especially. There should be at least five classes, the members of which ought not to mingle indiscriminately, viz: (1) the very noisy; (2) the untidy and careless in habit; (3) the dangerous and homicidal; (4) the quiet, who are capable of some degree of labor, and (5) the convalescent. One extremely disagreeable or noisy patient can disturb all in a crowded place.

WE RECOMMEND:

.3. That better hospital facilities be provided for the female patients—those who need the care of the infirmary—the disabled and helpless, and that the exercise grounds be enlarged and made more attractive.



